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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Macroeconomic policy questions: high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Preparations for the substantive preparatory process and the high-level international event

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.82

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At the 5th meeting of its resumed organizational session on 31 March 2000, the Preparatory Committee for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development adopted draft resolution A/AC.257/L.1/Rev.1 and recommended that the General Assembly adopt that draft resolution, which is now reproduced in document A/54/L.82. An oral statement of programme budget implications was provided to the Preparatory Committee.

2. The requests contained in the draft resolution are as follows:

(a) By paragraph 2, the General Assembly would, *inter alia*, approve the proposals and recommendations contained in the report of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.257/6):

(i) Paragraph 7 of the Bureau's report provides for periodic consultations between the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and the Executive Board of the World Bank;

(ii) Paragraph 11 of the same report calls for holding a series of regional consultative meetings to be organized by the five United Nations regional commissions in cooperation with the regional development banks and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(iii) Paragraph 17 of the report calls for holding two sets of hearings with non-governmental organizations and the business sector, each of two days' duration comprising morning and afternoon panel sessions;

(b) By paragraph 9, the General Assembly would decide to hold a substantive session of two weeks' duration in the first quarter of 2001 and a third substantive session, also of two weeks' duration, in the second quarter of 2001 at United Nations Headquarters.

3. The financial implications of the above requests are estimated at $154,500 and would provide for travel and daily subsistence allowance of participants in the

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consultations of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee as follows:

(a) Consultations with intergovernmental stakeholders in: Washington (3 trips of the 15-member Bureau and 2 Secretariat staff: $18,800; Geneva (1 trip of the 15-member Bureau and 1 Secretariat staff member: $29,100); and the five regional Commissions (1 trip by 3 members of the Bureau and 1 Secretariat staff member to each of the 5 regional Commissions: $71,500);

(b) Consultations with other stakeholders through the holding of two sets of hearings in the last part of 2000 in New York. Each hearing would be convened for two days, and the Bureau would invite five individuals (one from each region) to each hearing ($35,100).

4. With regard to the proposal to hold two sets of hearings in the fourth quarter of 2000 in New York, each of two days' duration comprising morning and afternoon panel sessions, it is to be noted that during the regular annual session of the General Assembly, held from September to December, all conference facilities and services are, as a rule, reserved for meetings of the Assembly itself, its main committees and related meetings of regional and other groups. Furthermore, in accordance with section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243, no subsidiary organ of the Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during its regular session unless explicitly authorized to do so by the Assembly. In practical terms, such authorization may be implemented only on the understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated as facilities and services became available so that the activities of the Assembly would not be adversely affected.

5. The Preparatory Committee would hold its second substantive session of two weeks' duration in the first quarter of 2001 and the third substantive session, also of two weeks' duration, in the second quarter of 2001 at United Nations Headquarters. The conference servicing requirements would be met on an as-available basis, and the cost would be met within the overall level of resources approved for conference services for the biennium 2000-2001.

6. Under section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, an amount of $60,000 was approved by the General Assembly for consultancy services for the preparation of specialized studies and analyses to support the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development. No other provisions were made, as the Assembly did not reach a decision during the main part of its fifty-fourth session on the preparatory work for the high-level international intergovernmental event.

7. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/54/L.82, additional requirements in the amount of $154,500 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. It is proposed that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to incur the related expenditures up to $154,500 and that it request him to report to the Assembly on the actual requirements for implementing the requests contained in the draft resolution, in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2000-2001, at which time, if additional resources were required, recourse would be had to the contingency fund.**

8. Finally, it is brought to the attention of the General Assembly that the payment of travel and subsistence allowance to the members of the Bureau would imply a waiver of the provisions contained in Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 regarding such payment to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations.